

TODAY AMERICA ARMS FOR DEFENSE. But arms and the men are only a part of our defense. There is a "home front." You—the citizens of every town—are our "home front." National defense brings you many opportunities to serve and many problems to solve.

Venereal disease is a serious, immediate "home front" problem. Boom-town conditions make it easy for venereal diseases to spread very rapidly. The town that doesn't take control of the situation will suffer.

Expansion of armed forces and industry means that a camp, a training center, or new factories may be set up near your town. In industrial cities, normal life will be changed in many ways. There will be many newcomers in your town. They will need food, clothes, recreation, other necessities of life. Business will be better. Employment will increase. But these benefits will not be *clear gain* unless the community takes steps to solve the problems which new conditions bring.

Venereal disease keeps the soldier from duty—the industrial worker from his job. Military authorities and defense industries want venereal disease controlled. They know that in the World War, venereal disease cost the United States Army the loss of almost 7 million days—equal to a full year's absence from duty for 19,000 men! They know that uncontrolled venereal disease is just as destructive today as in 1917. The Army, the Navy, and industry cannot afford to lose time from preventable venereal disease. Your town cannot afford the loss! America cannot afford it!

"What we do now, if it be well done, is imperative for safety in war but it is even more greatly productive for permanent peace. Whatever the future holds for us, our effort *cannot* be wasted. We build for a strong, a vigorous America, eternally ready for tomorrow."

—Thomas Parran,
Surgeon General of the
U. S. Public Health Service.

Syphilis and gonorrhea can be controlled in your town. That's where the *real work* must be done. The men behind the guns and the workers behind the machines get venereal disease in the nearby communities—perhaps in *your town*. What will you do to control venereal disease?

It is a community problem . . . all groups and all citizens working together. You will need good facilities for finding and treating syphilis and gonorrhea. You will need community education. Prostitution must be repressed. Such a program requires money, equipment, and trained workers. *Your* support *now* is vital if your town is to do its job. Support of venereal disease control in your town can be *your* service to your country in time of need.

FACTS

are weapons

what do you know about venereal disease?

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and
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Venereal Disease Defense for YOUR TOWN

Venereal disease defense is a job for every man and woman in America. But it is a job for them at home—in their own communities. The Federal Government knows this. Steps have already been taken to help communities solve the problem. The Army, the Navy, and the Public Health Service have made a working agreement with State health departments to fight venereal disease. The plan tells what should be done in areas where armed forces or national defense employees are concentrated. Make it **your** business to check up on what your town is doing.

Find venereal disease. To control syphilis and gonorrhea, infected people must first be found. Finding venereal disease requires trained personnel, clinics for examining people, laboratories for blood tests, the cooperation of private physicians.

The Army and Navy take care of finding venereal disease among enlisted men. It is your town's job to see that any civilian can get a blood test and physical examination. This is especially important for young people, because the majority of new venereal disease cases occur among young adults.

Does your town provide funds for finding venereal disease?

Treat venereal disease. Control of venereal disease depends upon treating infected persons in the early stages of their disease. Only when a sick person is under treatment is *that* source of infection cut off from healthy men and women. Physicians, nurses, clinics, laboratories, and drugs are necessities.

Treatment in the armed forces is the task of the Army and Navy. Infected civilians and

defense employees must depend upon the physicians and health authorities of your town.

Does your health department have the funds and personnel to provide treatment? To assist private physicians?

Follow up venereal disease. Patients under treatment got their disease from someone else. It is not enough to treat only those who come of their own accord. You must find the ones who gave them their disease. They, too, must be examined and treated. Patients who will not cooperate must be made to do so, even if it means confining them under the law.

The Army and Navy will tell your local health department where to find the people who have given venereal disease to enlisted men. Your health authorities must cooperate by reporting to military authorities when they discover that enlisted men have been in contact with infected civilians. This job requires trained workers.

Does your town provide funds for skilled follow-up work?

Prevent venereal disease. Prostitution is the most serious threat to venereal disease control. No town can entirely regulate the private lives of citizens. But *any* town can reduce the risk of venereal disease by taking strong action against prostitution. If your town does its part in repressing prostitution,

there will be fewer chances for healthy people to catch syphilis or gonorrhea.

Your local police department is responsible for repressing prostitution. The Army, Navy, Public Health Service, and your State health department will cooperate—but the job is up to your town.

Are the authorities in your town meeting the challenge of prostitution?

Teach the facts. Men and women who know the facts about venereal disease are better able to protect themselves and others. They should know how syphilis and gonorrhea are caught . . . how the diseases are detected and treated . . . how to prevent infection . . . and what to do if they think they have one of these diseases. Your town should use every possible means of getting this information to the public, especially to young people.

Is there an active venereal disease education program in your town?

Cooperate. Venereal disease defense is a "home front" job for every town in the United States. It is not a job for your health department alone, for your police, schools, churches or clubs alone. It is *everybody's* job. It means the cooperation of every group, every agency . . . pooling all resources that can be used to fight venereal disease in your town. Most of all, it requires *your support*—the active interest of every citizen.

Are you helping your town do the job?

YOUR TOWN IS THE FRONT LINE OF VENEREAL DISEASE DEFENSE